



STAR
COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABILITY
TOOLS FOR
ASSESSING &
RATING COMMUNITIES

briefing to **King County GIS Users Group**

August 7, 2013

Richard Gelb

The background of the slide features a photograph of a city skyline with several tall skyscrapers. In the foreground, there is a lush green hill with trees, partially obscuring the base of the buildings. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

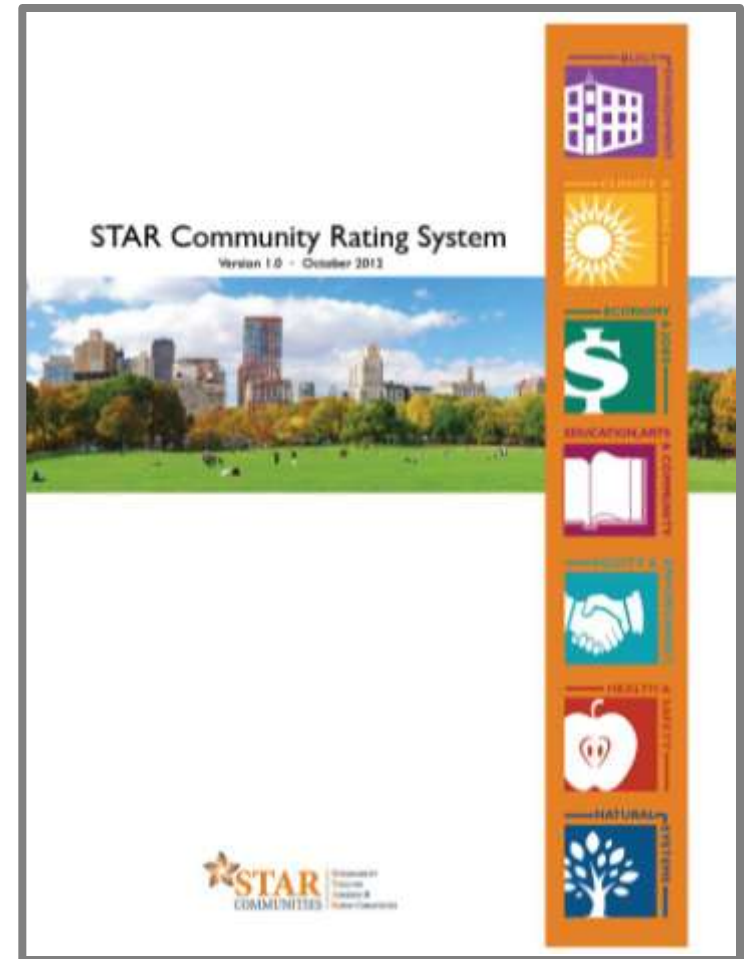
SET GOALS. MEASURE PROGRESS.

www.STARcommunities.org

STAR Community Rating System

The **STAR Community Rating System** is a self-reporting system for measuring progress on sustainable community conditions.

Released October 2012, the Rating System is the first framework for evaluating the sustainability of North American communities.



Built **by and for** Local Governments

- In 2008, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the U.S. Green Building Council, National League of Cities, and the Center for American Progress announced formal partnership
- Established a diverse, consensus-based stakeholder engagement process
- More than 200 volunteers representing cities and counties, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, national associations, universities, utilities, and private corporations
- King County was a 'Beta' and is now a 'Pilot' Community



30+ STAR Community Pilots

UNDER 100,000

- El Cerrito, CA
- Northampton, MA
- Santa Fe, NM
- Evanston, IL
- Victoria, Canada
- Santa Monica, CA
- Rockingham County, NC
- Albany, NY
- Woodbridge, NJ
- Davenport, IA

100,001 - 499,999

- Fort Collins, CO
- Chattanooga, TN
- Des Moines, IA
- Tacoma, WA
- Chandler, AZ
- Riverside, CA
- St. Louis, MO
- Lee County, FL
- Cleveland, OH
- Atlanta, GA

500,000 - 999,999


- **Seattle, WA**
- Portland, OR
- Vancouver, BC
- Washington, DC
- Austin, TX
- DeKalb County, GA
- Indianapolis, IN

1,000,000 +


- Calgary, AB
- Montreal, QC
- Broward County, FL
- **King County, WA**
- Toronto, ON

Elements of STAR Communities

A framework for measuring the social, economic and environmental dimensions of community sustainability (including outcomes and actions being taken)

A large, light blue downward-pointing arrow connects the first box to the second box.

A rating system that drives continuous improvement and fosters competition

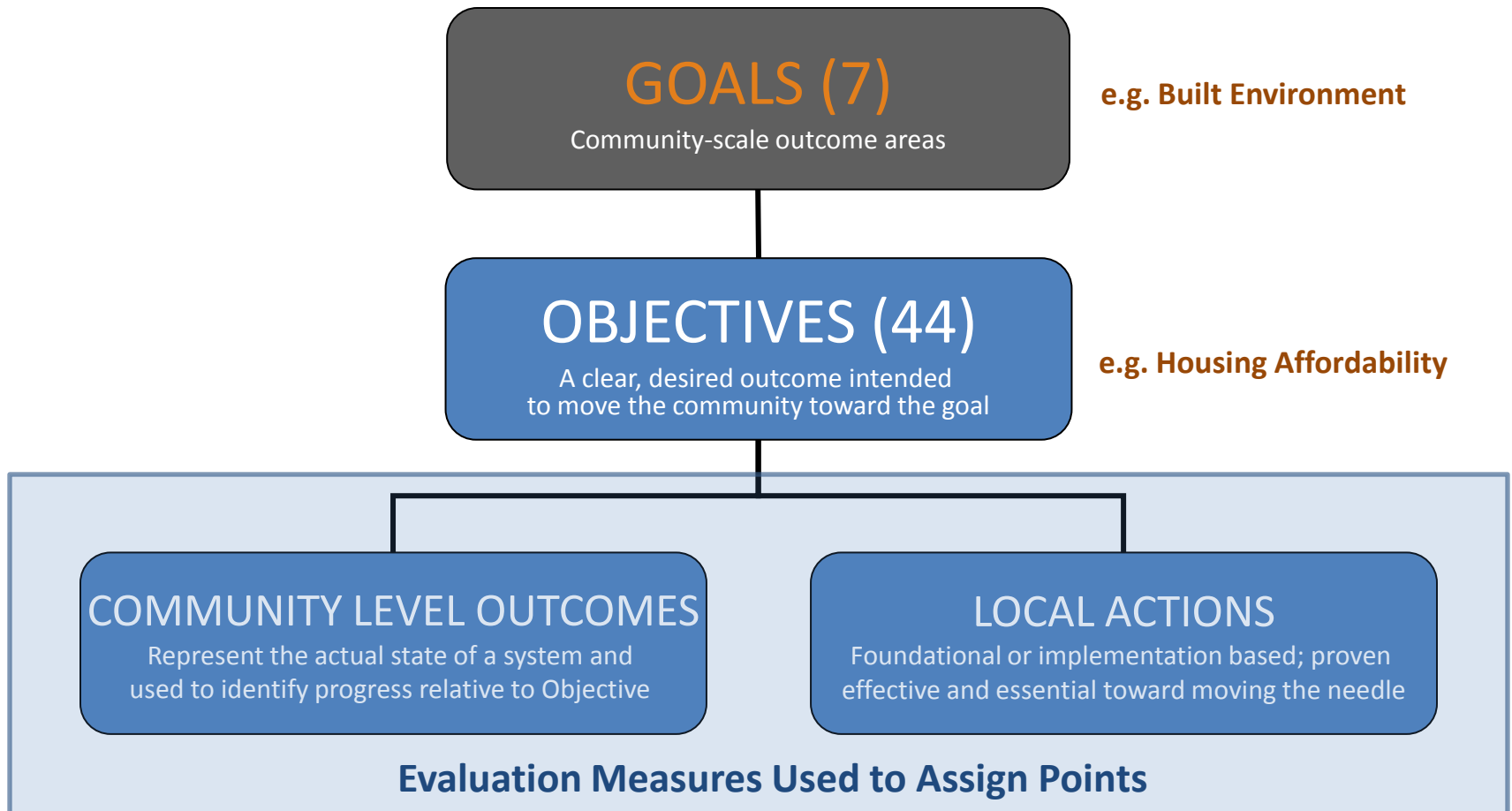
A large, light blue downward-pointing arrow connects the second box to the third box.

An online tool that gathers, organizes, analyzes, and presents information on community performance



Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Arts & Culture	Business Retention & Development	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Community Cohesion	Green Market Development	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health & Health System	Invasive Species
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Local Economy	Environmental Justice	Emergency Prevention & Response	Natural Resource Protection
Housing Affordability	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Historic Preservation	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality
Infill & Redevelopment	Resource Efficient Buildings	Social & Cultural Diversity	Targeted Industry Development	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Water in the Environment
Public Spaces	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure		Workforce Readiness	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Working Lands
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	

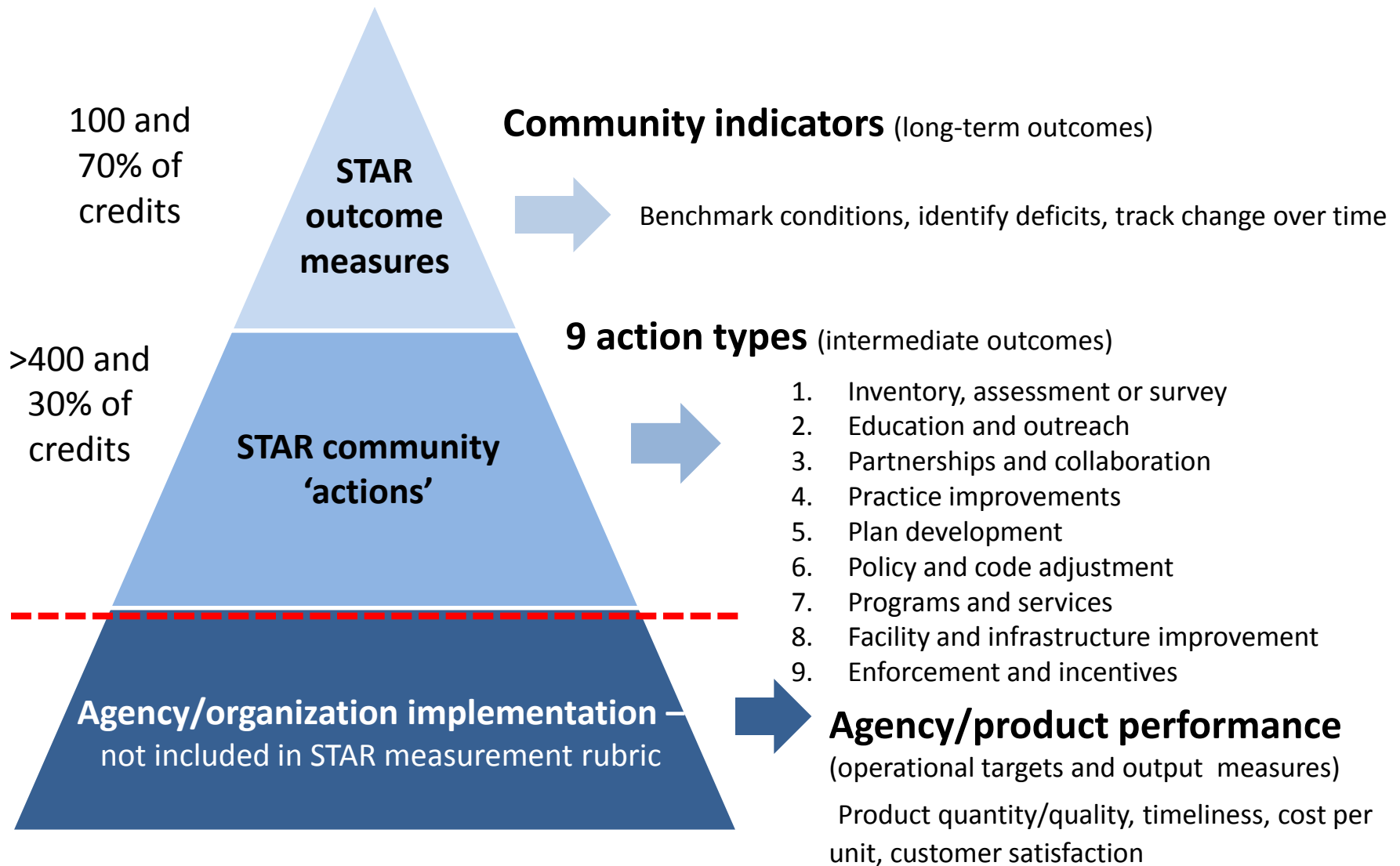
Rating System Framework



e.g. Demonstrate that 10% of residential units built or substantially rehabilitated in the past 3 years in urban centers are dedicated as subsidized affordable housing

e.g. Require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of affordable housing in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Measurement hierarchy in STAR – how credits are awarded in the system:



9 action types




Foundational Actions:

- Partnerships and collaboration
- Inventory, assessment or survey
- Education and outreach
- Plan development
- Policy and code adjustment
- Practice improvements

Implementation-based Actions:

- Programs and services
- Facility and infrastructure improvement
- Enforcement and incentives

STAR Communities alignment with King County Strategic Plan

 = KCSP scope

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Arts, Culture and Heritage	Business Retention & Support	Civil & Human Rights	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Compact & Complete Communities	Resource Efficient Infrastructure	Community Cohesion	Community-Based Economic Development	Community Empowerment	Emergency Prevention & Response	Invasive Species
Housing Affordability	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Educational Opportunities and Attainment	Local Economy	Environmental Justice	Food Access & Nutrition	Land Conservation
Infill & Redevelopment	Greening the Energy Supply	Social & Cultural Diversity	Market Demand	Equitable Services & Access	Community Health & Health System	Natural Resources Protection
Public Spaces	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Historic Preservation	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Outdoor Air Quality
Transportation Choices	Resource Efficient Buildings	Workforce Readiness	Targeted Industry Sectors Development	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Water in the Environment
Community Water Systems	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	Working Lands

Equity dimensions of STAR



Process Equity: Inclusive, open, and fair access by all stakeholders to decision processes that impact sustainable community outcomes.

Distributional Equity: Fair and just distribution of benefits and burdens to all residents across the community landscape, with little imbalance based on geography, gender, race/ethnicity, or income levels of households.

Intergenerational Equity: Effects of today's actions on the fair distribution of benefits and burdens to future generations and communities.

King County serves all residents by promoting fairness
and opportunity and eliminating inequities.

King County Strategic Plan-Fair And Just Guiding Principle



DETERMINANTS OF EQUITY

King County Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) policy summary





Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Arts & Culture	Business Retention & Development	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Community Cohesion	Green Market Development	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health & Health System	Invasive Species
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Local Economy	Environmental Justice	Emergency Prevention & Response	Natural Resource Protection
Housing Affordability	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Historic Preservation	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality
Infill & Redevelopment	Resource Efficient Buildings	Social & Cultural Diversity	Targeted Industry Development	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Water in the Environment
Public Spaces	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure		Workforce Readiness	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Working Lands
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	

Distributional Equity ... per Equitable Services and Access objective:



- Public transit facilities and service levels
- Public libraries
- Public schools
- Public spaces
- Healthful food
- Health and human services
- Digital access
- Urban tree canopy
- Emergency response times

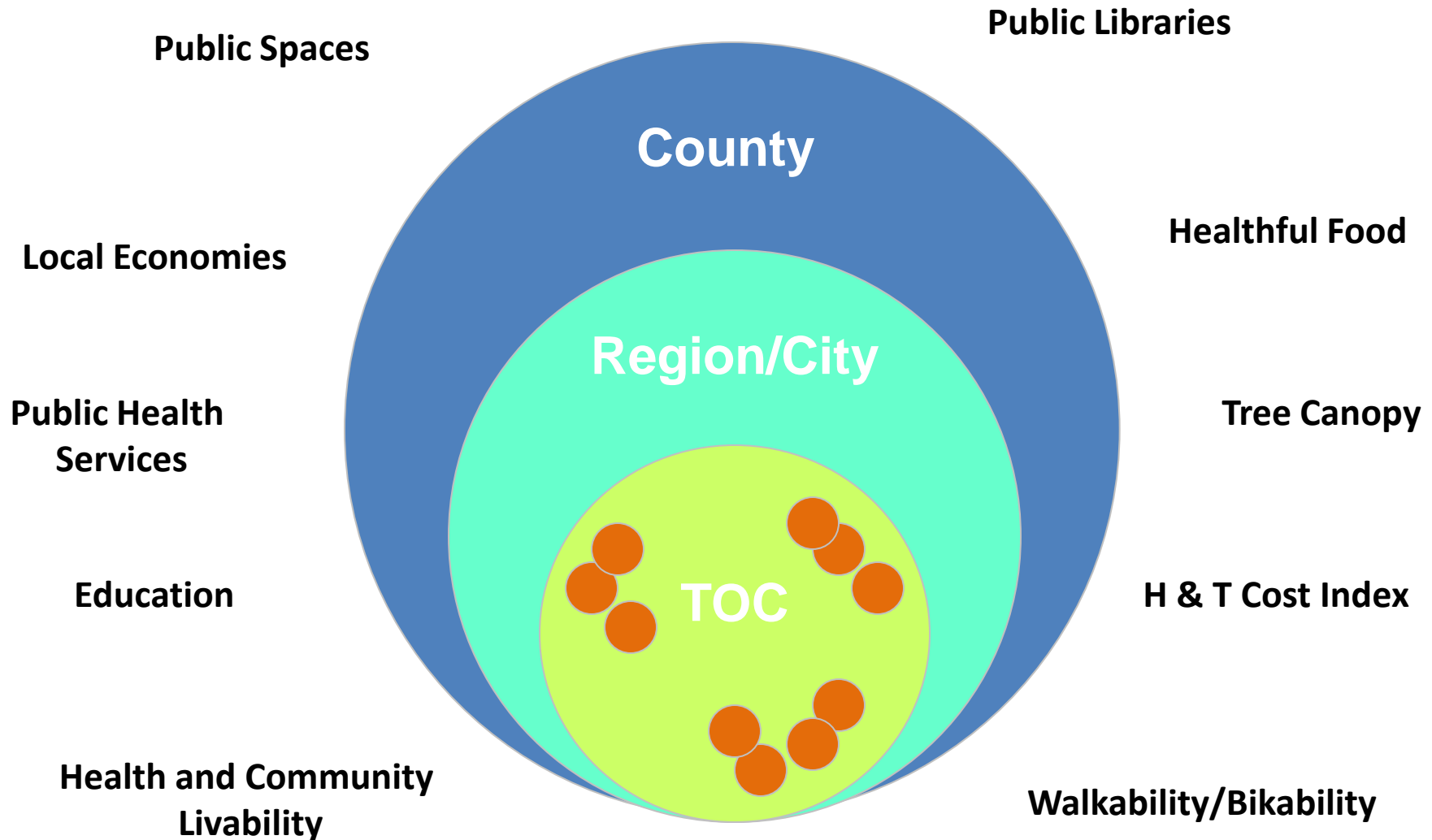
“Show the amount that the lowest performing quintile (*or quintiles of concern*) have moved toward the community norm between the measurement periods.”

Equity (k)NOW – Futurewise Partnership



- **Step 1: Baseline Assessment**
- **Step 2: Community Prioritization**
- **Step 3: Community Equity Report**
- **Step 4: Develop and Implement Actions**
- **Step 5: Measure Outcomes**

Step 1: Baseline Assessment








Distribution of Libraries, 2000

By Median Household Income, Census Tract

Median Household Income

- \$11,265.00 - \$40,839.00
- \$40,839.01 - \$50,750.00
- \$50,750.01 - \$60,410.00
- \$60,410.01 - \$70,353.00
- \$70,353.01 - \$133,756.00

-  Library Locations
-  Library Service Area

-  1 mile buffer intermediate - low & low density
-  2/3 mile buffer intermediate - high density
-  1/2 mile buffer high density

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Data Source: 2000 Census

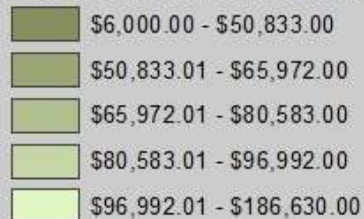


Date: 7/24/2013

Distribution of Libraries, 2010

By Median Household Income,
Census Tract

Est. Median Household Income



Library Locations
 Library Service Area

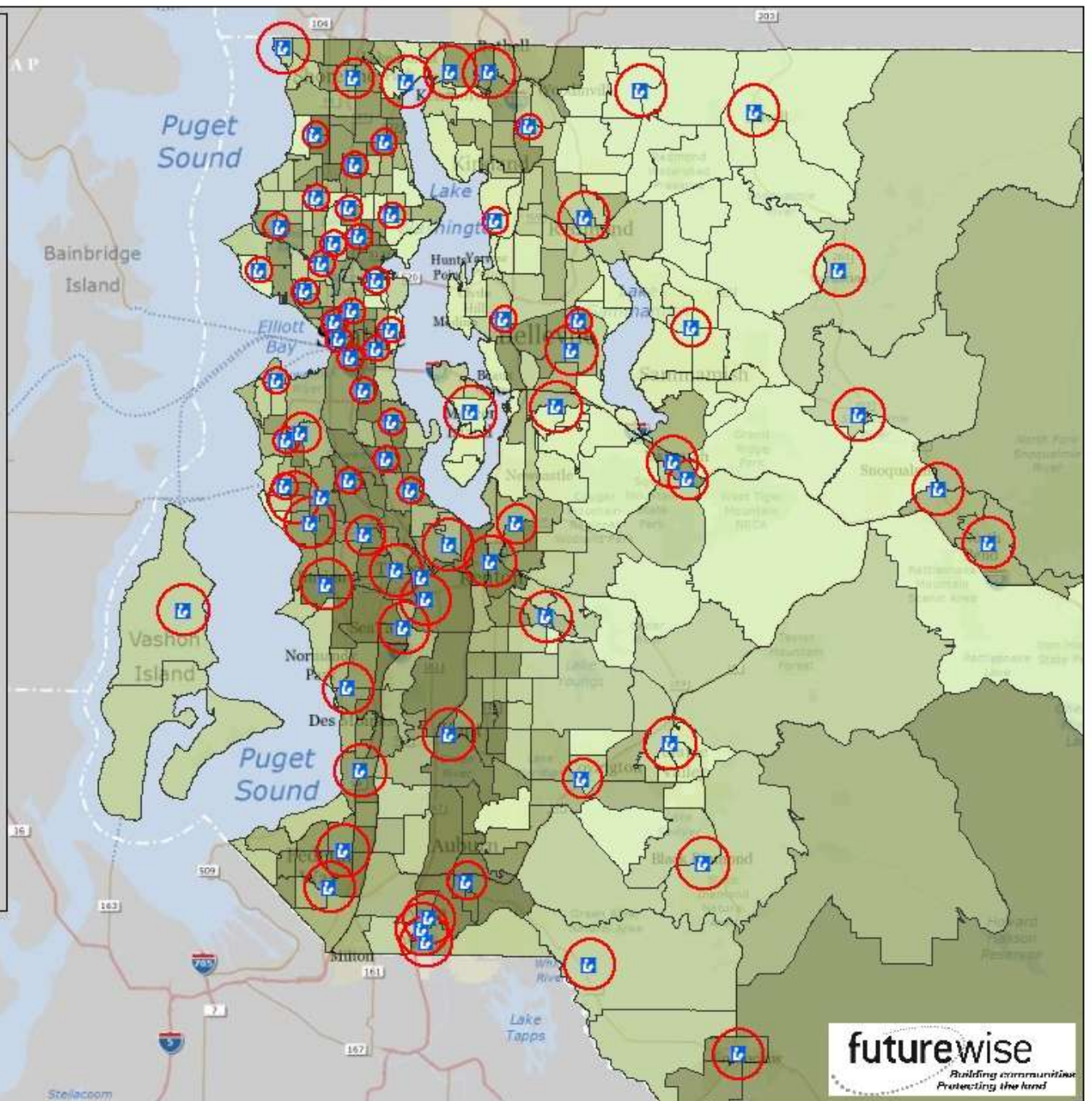
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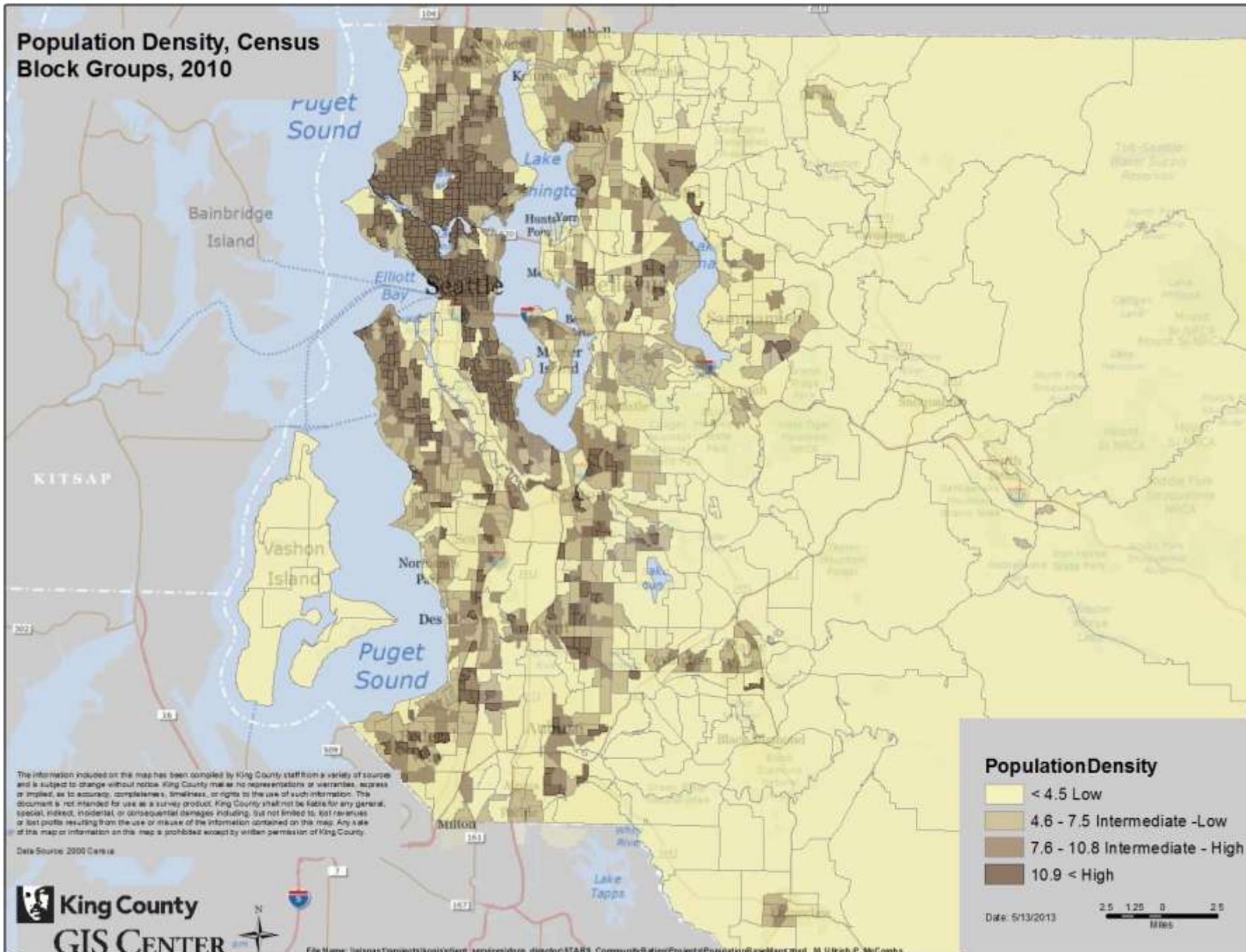
Data Source: 2010 Census & 2007 - 2011 5 Year American Community Survey



Date: 7/24/2013



Population Density, Census Block Groups, 2010



Library access in quintiles by % People of Color - 2000 to 2010

Library Service Areas People of Color **2010**

# Block Groups	Quintile	Performance
161	1: 3% - 14%	56%
163	2: 14% - 21%	57%
140	3: 21% - 32%	49%
157	4: 32% - 45%	55%
201	5: 45% - 92%	71%
Community Norm		58%

Library Service Areas People of Color **2000**

# Block Groups	Quintile	Performance
141	1: 1% - 10%	44%
175	2: 10% - 16%	55%
169	3: 16% - 24%	53%
152	4: 24% - 37%	48%
169	5: 37% - 100%	53%
Community Norm		51%

Distribution of Farmers Markets & Grocery Stores, 2010

With Racial/Ethnic Demographic
Overlay, Block Group

Population of Color

- 3.3% - 14.1%
- 14.11% - 21.5%
- 21.51% - 32%
- 32.01% - 45.6%
- 45.61% - 92.5%

Healthy Food Service Area

- 1 mile buffer intermediate - low & low density
- 2/3 mile buffer intermediate - high density
- 1/4 mile buffer high density

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Data Source: 2010 Census & 2007 - 2011 5-Year American Community Survey



Date: 7/23/2013

Distribution of Playgrounds, 2010

By Median Household Income,
Census Tract

Est. Median Household Income

- \$6,000.00 - \$50,833.00
- \$50,833.01 - \$65,972.00
- \$65,972.01 - \$80,583.00
- \$80,583.01 - \$96,992.00
- \$96,992.01 - \$186,630.00

Play Area Service

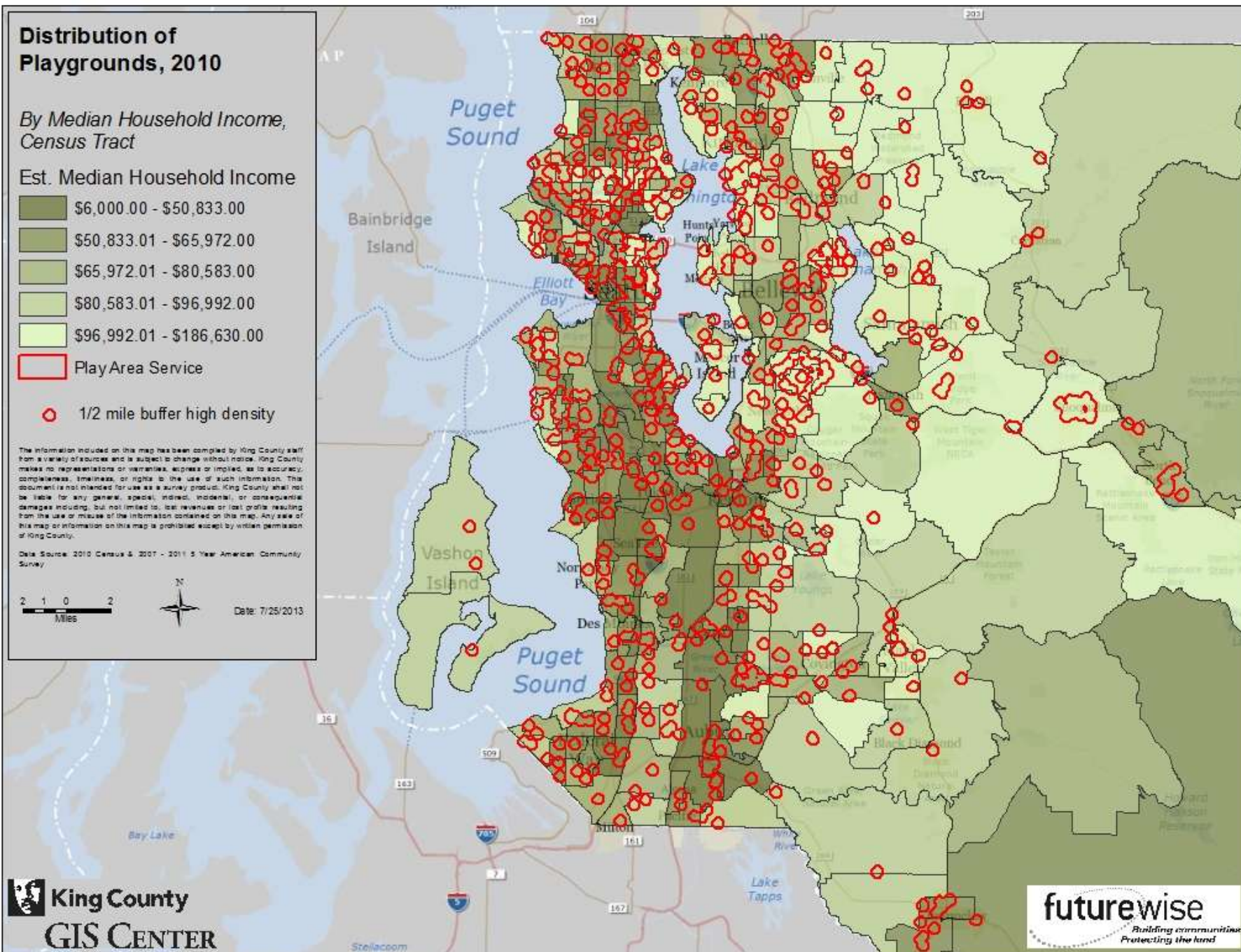
1/2 mile buffer high density

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Data Source: 2010 Census & 2007 - 2011 5 Year American Community Survey



Date: 7/25/2013



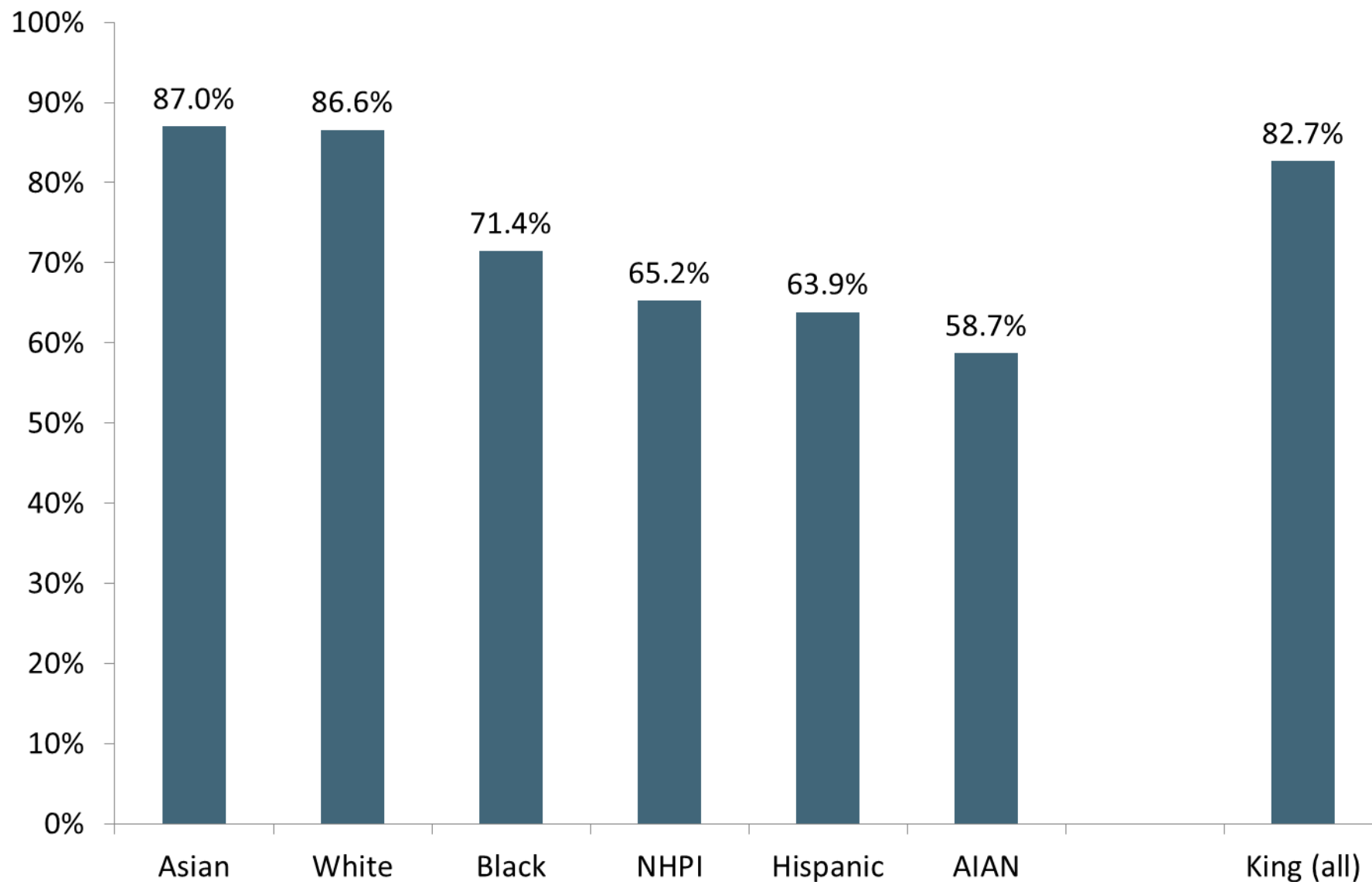
Access to playgrounds in quintiles by race and HH income 2010

by Median Household Income 2010

by People of Color 2010

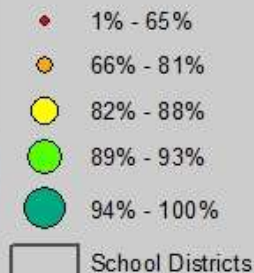
by Median Household Income 2010				by People of Color 2010			
Number of Tracts Served	Quintile	Average Percentage of Tracts Served		Number of Block Groups	Quintile	Average Percentage of Block Groups Served	
80	1: \$6,000.00 - \$50,833.00	2831	35.39	285	1: 3.3% - 14.1%	7886	27.67
80	2: \$50,833.01 - \$65,972.00	2688	33.60	287	2: 14.11% - 21.5%	10275	35.80
79	3: \$65,972.01 - \$80,583.00	2452	31.04	283	3: 21.51% - 32%	9223	32.59
79	4: \$80,583.01 - \$96,992.00	2045	25.88	285	4: 32.01% - 45.6%	8515	29.88
79	5: \$96,992.01 - \$186,630.00	1933	24.46	280	5: 45.61% - 92.5%	9848	35.17
Community Norm			30.07	Community Norm			32.22

On-Time Graduate Rate, by Race/Ethnicity, King County, 2009-10 School Year



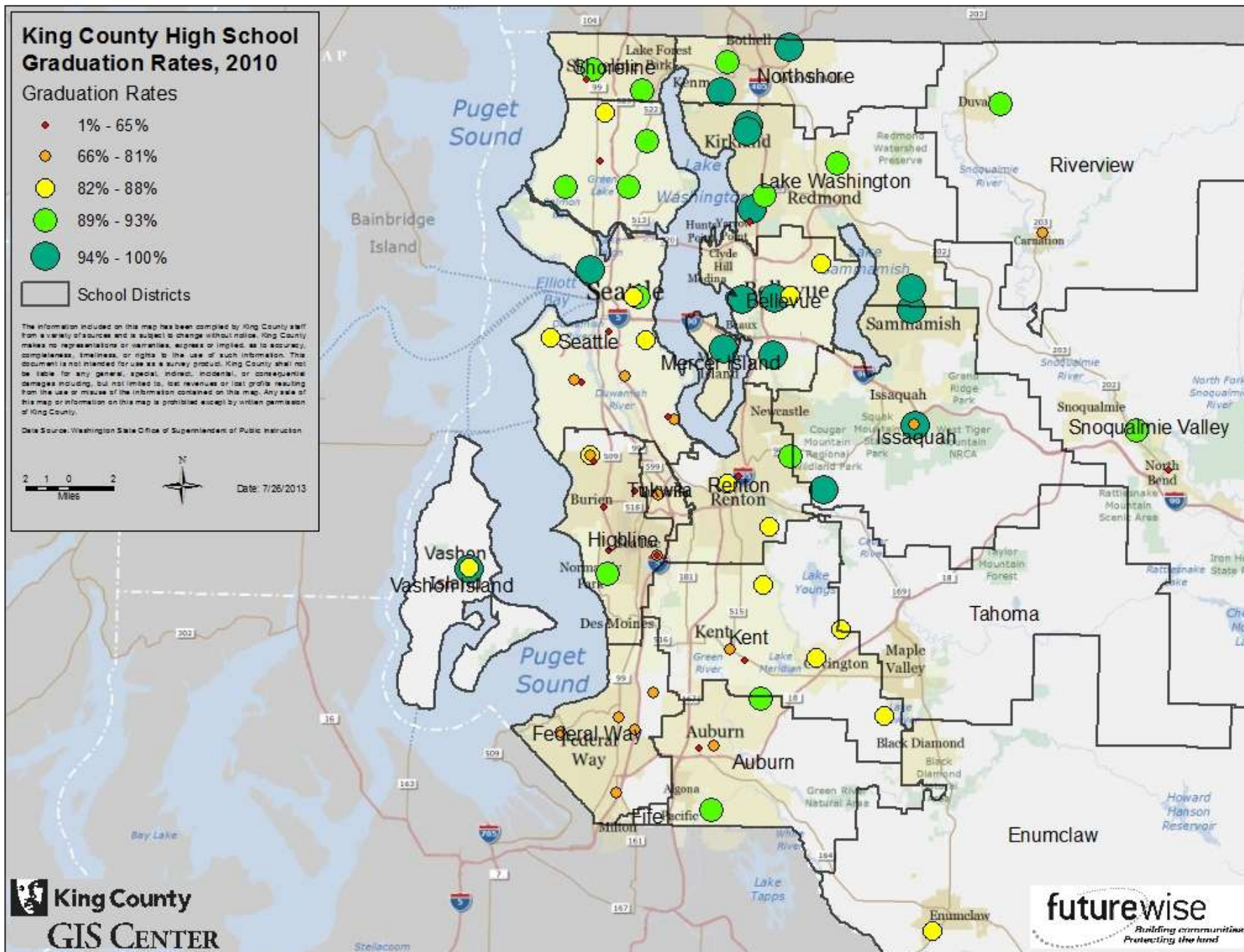
King County High School Graduation Rates, 2010

Graduation Rates

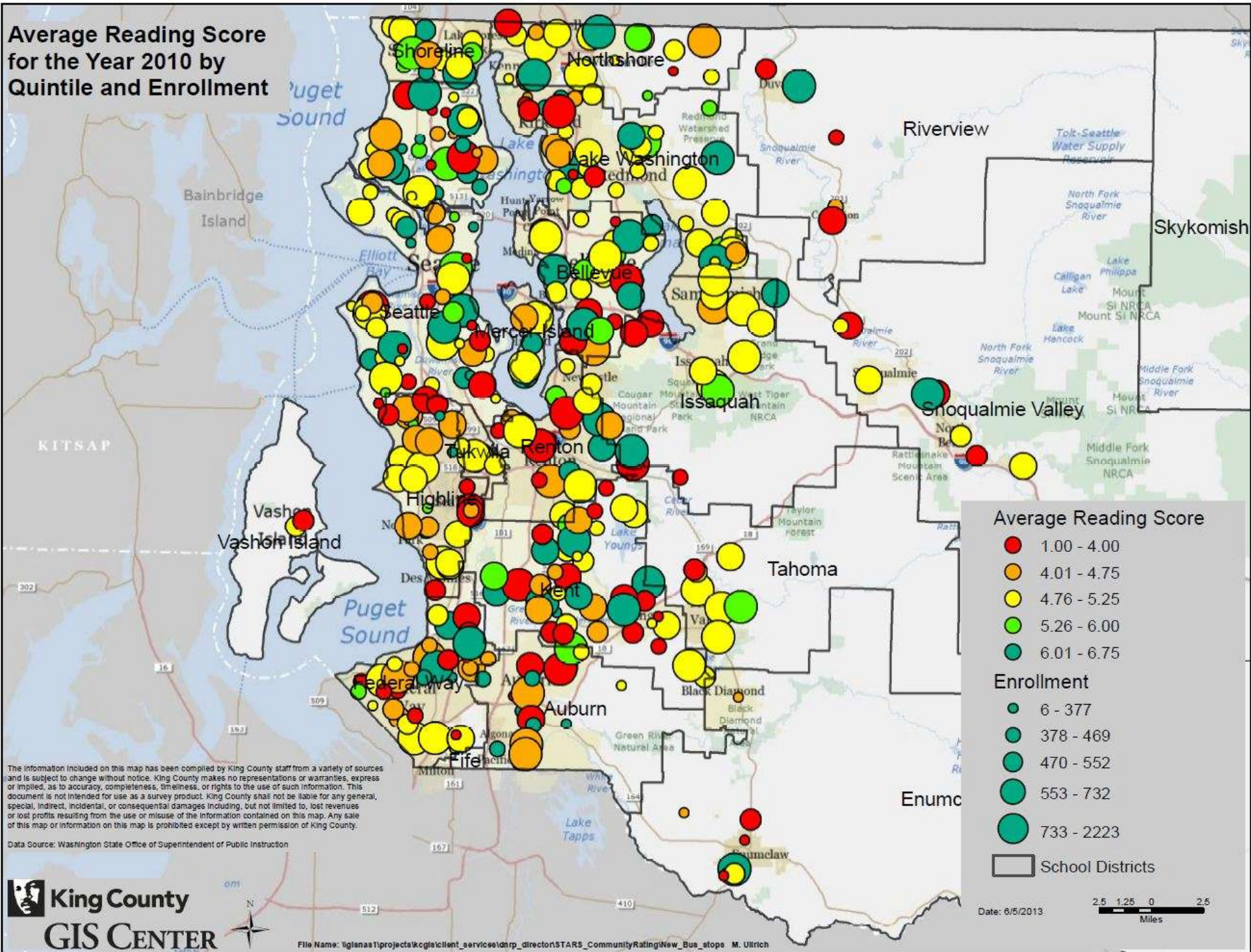


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Data Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction



Average Reading Score for the Year 2010 by Quintile and Enrollment

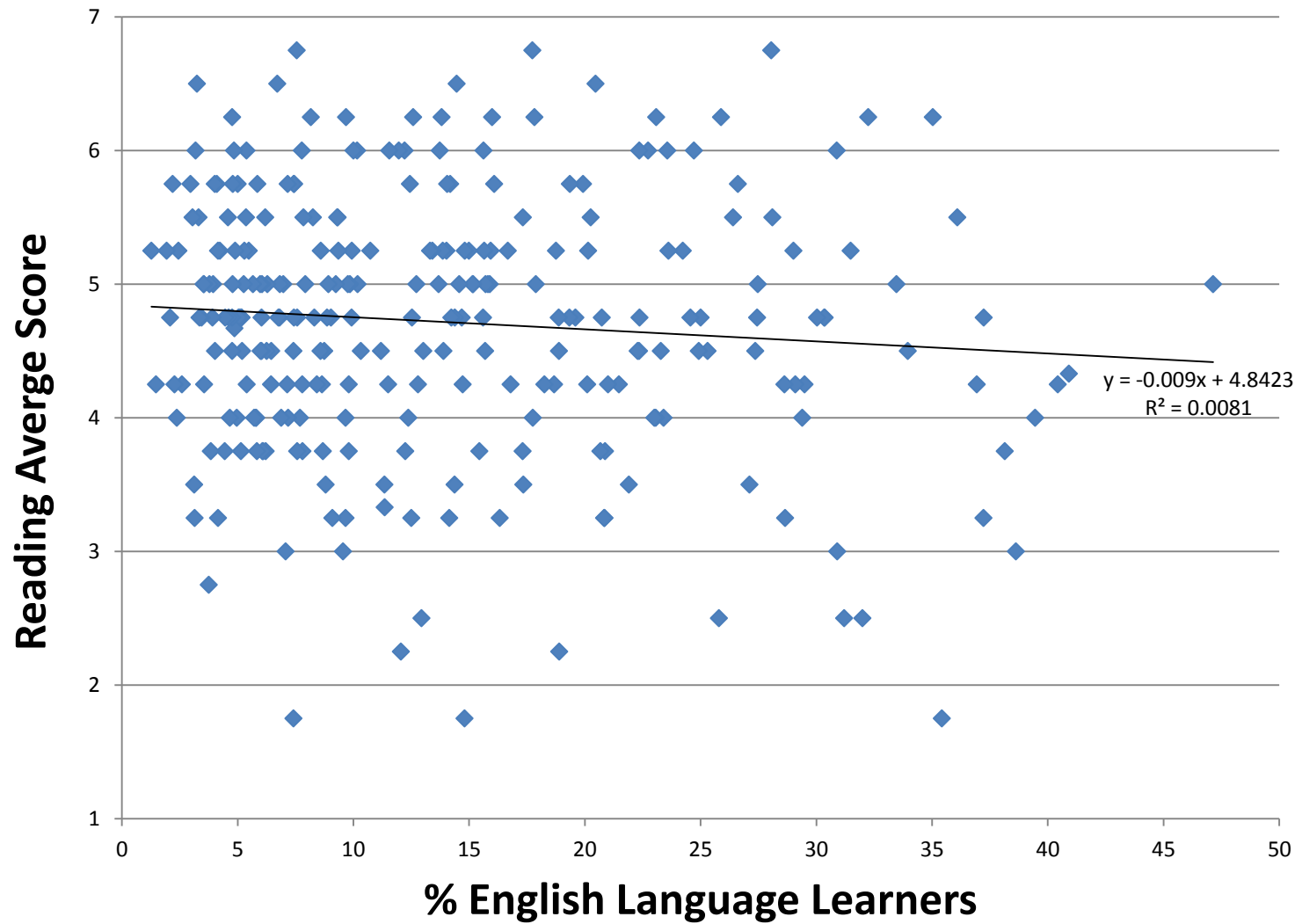


Reading scores as related to % low income and % English Language Learners (ELL)

Low Income Quintile	# of Schools	Min %	Max %	Median Reading Score
1	83	-	14.57	4.994
2	79	14.60	28.24	4.785
3	78	28.48	48.48	4.779
4	78	48.63	70.03	4.685
5	79	70.07	96.10	4.559
ELL Quintile	# of Schools	Min %	Max %	Median Reading Score
1	73	-	4.15	4.946
2	62	4.23	7.43	4.712
3	62	7.44	13.31	4.699
4	61	13.41	20.85	4.832
5	62	20.87	100.00	4.587

Community Norm: 4.774

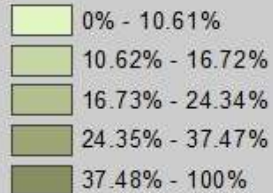
2010 – All King County Schools



King County MetroTransit Stop Distribution, 2000

With Racial/Ethnic Demographic Overlay, Block Group

Population of Color



- Transit Stops
- 2000 Tranist Stop Service Area
- 2/3 mile buffer intermediate - low & low density
- 1/2 mile buffer intermediate - high density
- 1/4 mile buffer high density

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Date Source: 2000 Census



Date: 7/16/2013

King County MetroTransit Stop Distribution, 2010

With Racial/Ethnic Demographic Overlay, Block Group

Population of Color

- 3.3% - 14.1%
- 14.11% - 21.5%
- 21.51% - 32%
- 32.01% - 45.6%
- 45.61% - 92.5%

- Transit Stops
- 2010 Transit Stop Service Area
- 2/3 mile buffer intermediate - low & low density
- 1/2 mile buffer intermediate - high density
- 1/4 mile buffer high density

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Data Source: 2010 Census



Date: 7/16/2013

Community Norm: Average of 412.01 Transit Trips serve all Block Groups.

With Racial/Ethnic Demographic
Overlay, Block Group

Trips in Block Group

1 Dot = 10

TransitTrips

Population of Color

5.8% - 13%
13.01% - 17.7%
17.71% - 27%
27.01% - 46.7%
46.71% - 92.5%

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Data Source: 2018 Census



DATA SOURCE



**King County
GIS CENTER**

futurewise

*Building communities
restoring the land*

Transit Trips People of Color 2010

Number of Block Groups	Quintile	Total Trips In Quintile	Average trips per day
285	1: 3.3% - 14.1%	27294	95.77
287	2: 14.11% - 21.5%	55779	194.35
283	3: 21.51% - 32%	74901	264.67
285	4: 32.01% - 45.6%	70984	249.07
280	5: 45.61% - 92.5%	90977	324.92
Community Norm			225.75

Transit Trips People of Color 2000

Number of Block Groups Served	Quintile	Total Trips In Quintile	Average trips per day
317	1: 0% - 10.61%	25787	81.35
316	2: 10.62% - 16.72%	38188	120.85
316	3: 16.73% - 24.34%	53012	167.76
316	4: 24.35% - 37.47%	58208	184.20
315	5: 37.48% - 100%	77273	245.31
Community Norm			159.89

*With Racial/Ethnic Overlay,
Block Group*

0% - 10.61%
10.62% - 16.72%
16.73% - 24.34%
24.35% - 37.47%
37.48% - 100%

- 3,000 ft. buffer intermediate - low & low density
- 2,000 ft. buffer intermediate - high density
- 1,000 ft. buffer high density

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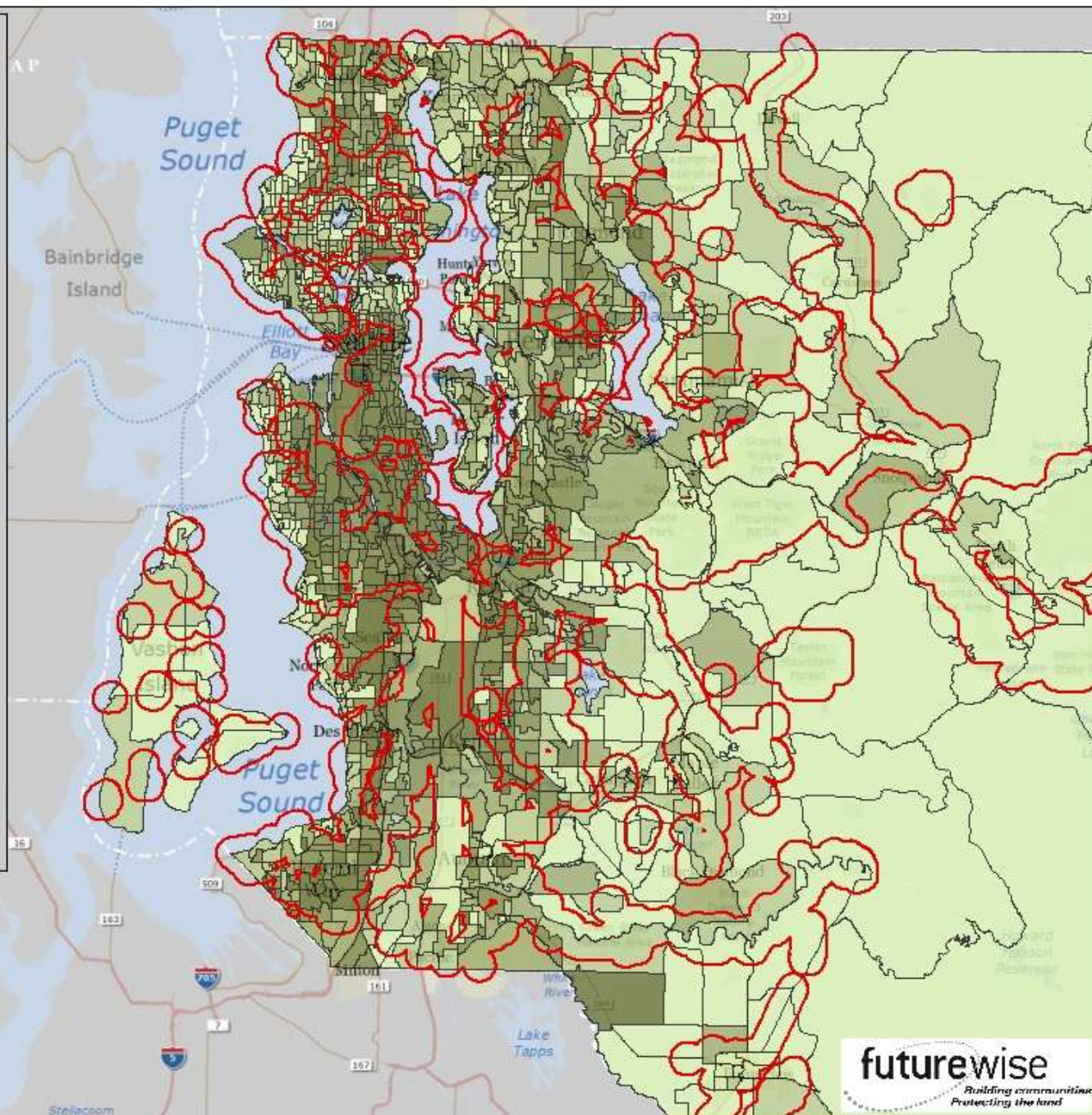
Data Source: 2000 Census



Date: 7/25/2013



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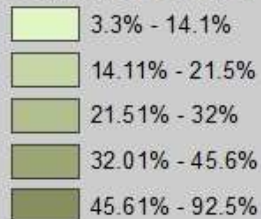



futurewise
Building communities
Protecting the land




Proximity to Parks, 2010

With Racial/Ethnic Overlay,
Block Group

Population of Color



 Park Service Area

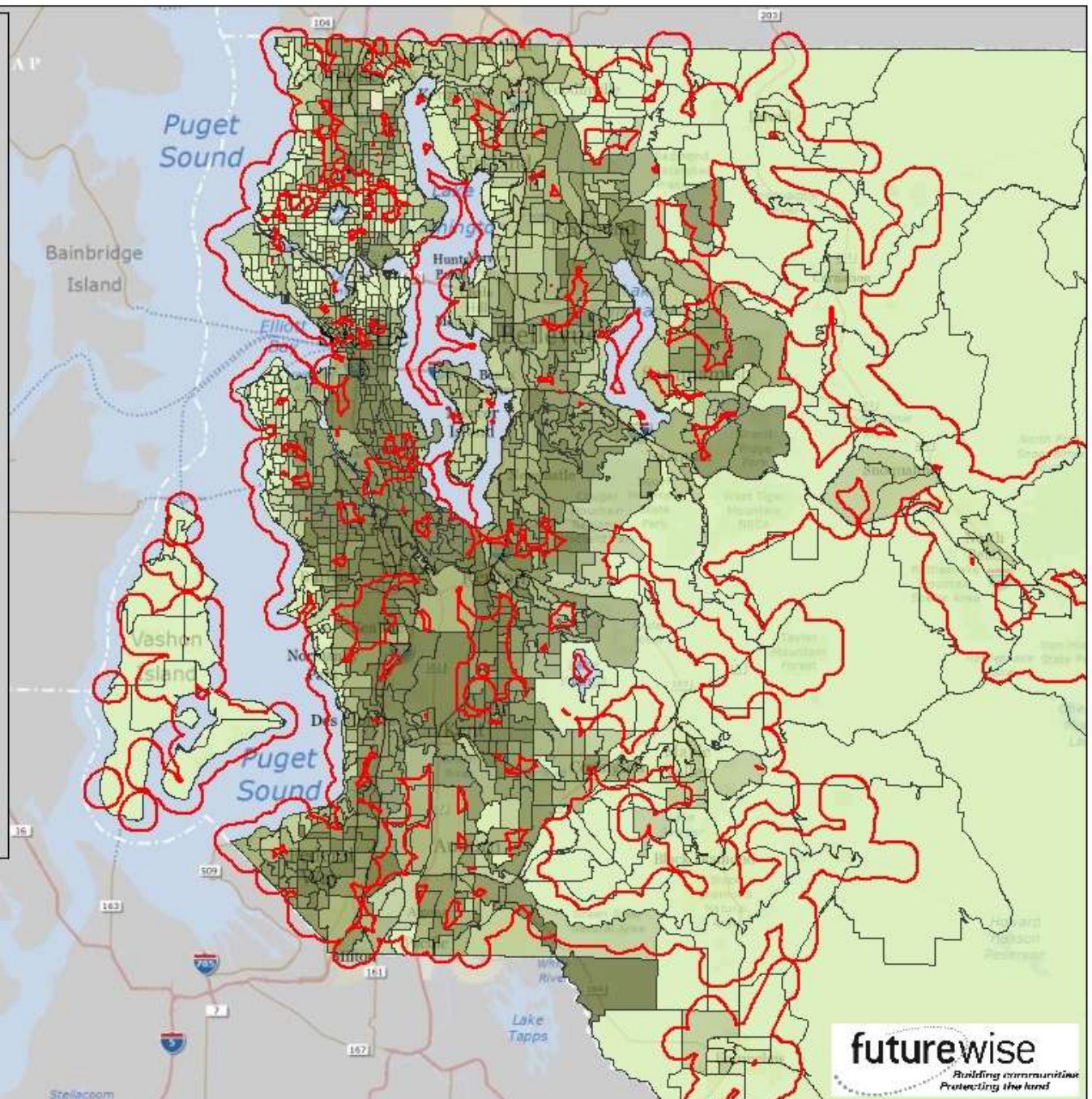
-  3,000 ft. buffer intermediate - low & low density
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Data Source: 2010 Census



Date: 7/25/2013



Vegetation Distribution, July 2010

Normalized Difference
Vegetation Index (NDVI)
Average Value by Block Group

Average Value for Block Group

- ≤ 0.1
- 0.1 - 0.2
- 0.2 - 0.3
- 0.3 - 0.4
- 0.4 - 0.5
- 0.5 - 0.6
- 0.6 - 0.7
- 0.7 - 0.8

Population of Color

- 3.3% - 14.1%
- 14.11% - 21.5%
- 21.51% - 32%
- 32.01% - 45.6%
- 45.61% - 92.5%

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Data Source: 2010 Census



Date: 8/5/2013

Quintile	Min Pop of Color	Max Pop of Color	Avg NDVI Value
1	3.30%	14.10%	0.522
2	14.11%	21.50%	0.451
3	21.51%	32.00%	0.434
4	32.01%	45.60%	0.433
5	45.61%	92.50%	0.383

Community Norm NDVI Value is .44



Stellacom

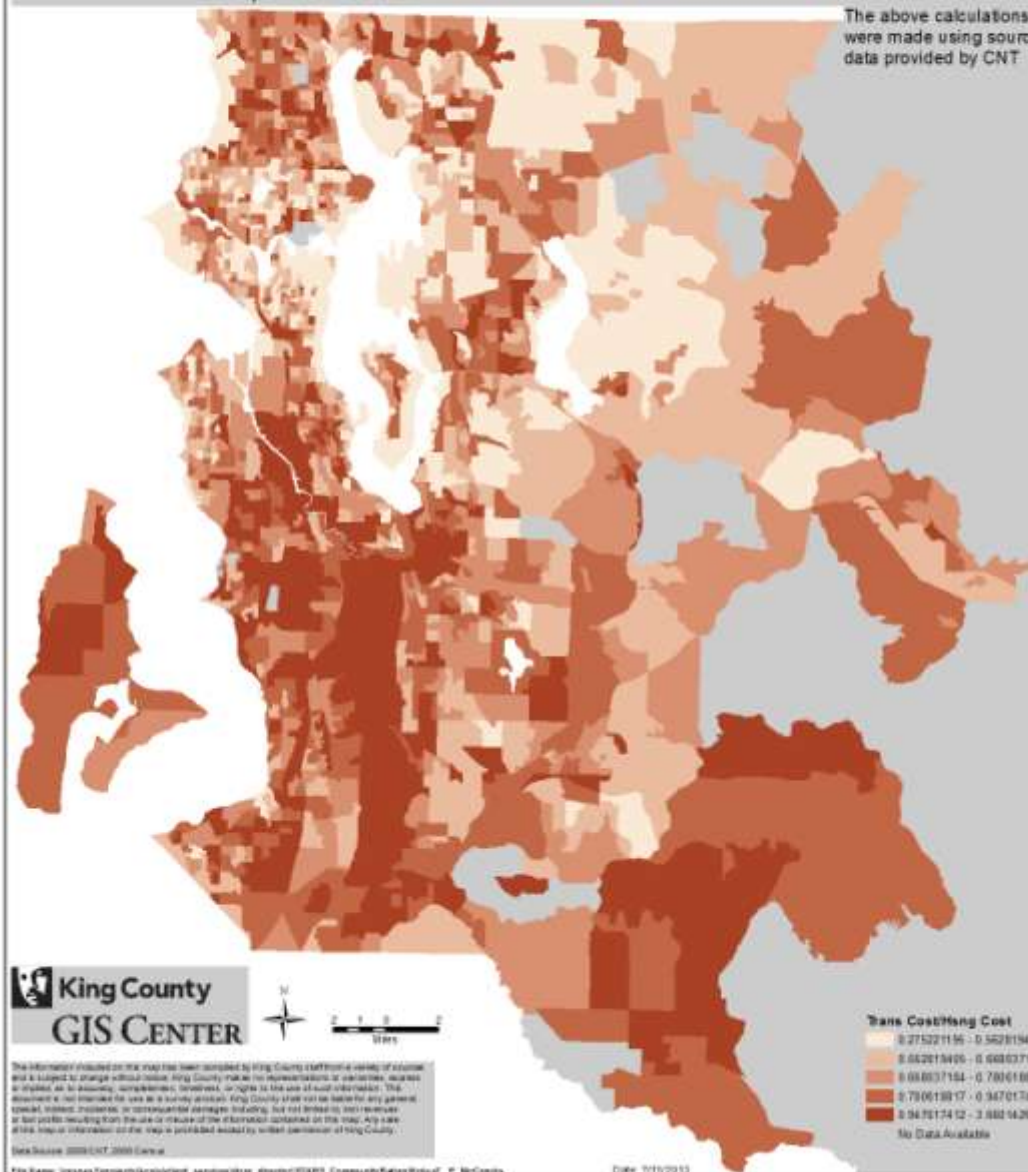


2009 H + T Index : Transportation and Housing Costs

Ratio of monthly transportation costs to housing costs, as modeled for the AMI, area average household size, and area average commuters per household. Using 2000 Census Block Groups

Quintile	People of Color	Avg Trans Cost	Avg Hsing Cost	Ratio
1	0% - 10.61%	1189	1872	0.639
2	10.62% - 16.72%	1134	1767	0.645
3	16.73% - 24.34%	1100	1591	0.747
4	24.35% - 37.47%	1090	1484	0.798
5	37.48% - 100%	1056	1236	0.955

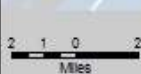
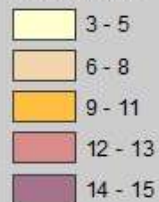
The above calculations were made using source data provided by CNT



Race/Ethnicity, Income, &
English Proficiency
Consolidated Demographics
Census Tract, 2010

Race/Ethnicity	Score	Median Household Income	Score	English Proficiency	Score
6.3% - 18.0%	1	\$92,917.01 - \$184,375.00	1	0.0% - 3.3%	2
18.1% - 27.1%	2	\$77,708.01 - \$92,917.00	2	3.4% - 6.7%	2
27.2% - 36.4%	3	\$64,199.01 - \$77,708.00	3	6.8% - 11.0%	3
36.5% - 51.1%	4	\$49,764.01 - \$64,199.00	4	11.1% - 17.3%	4
51.2% - 91.2%	5	\$5,000.00 - \$49,764.00	5	17.4% - 58.8%	5

Total Score



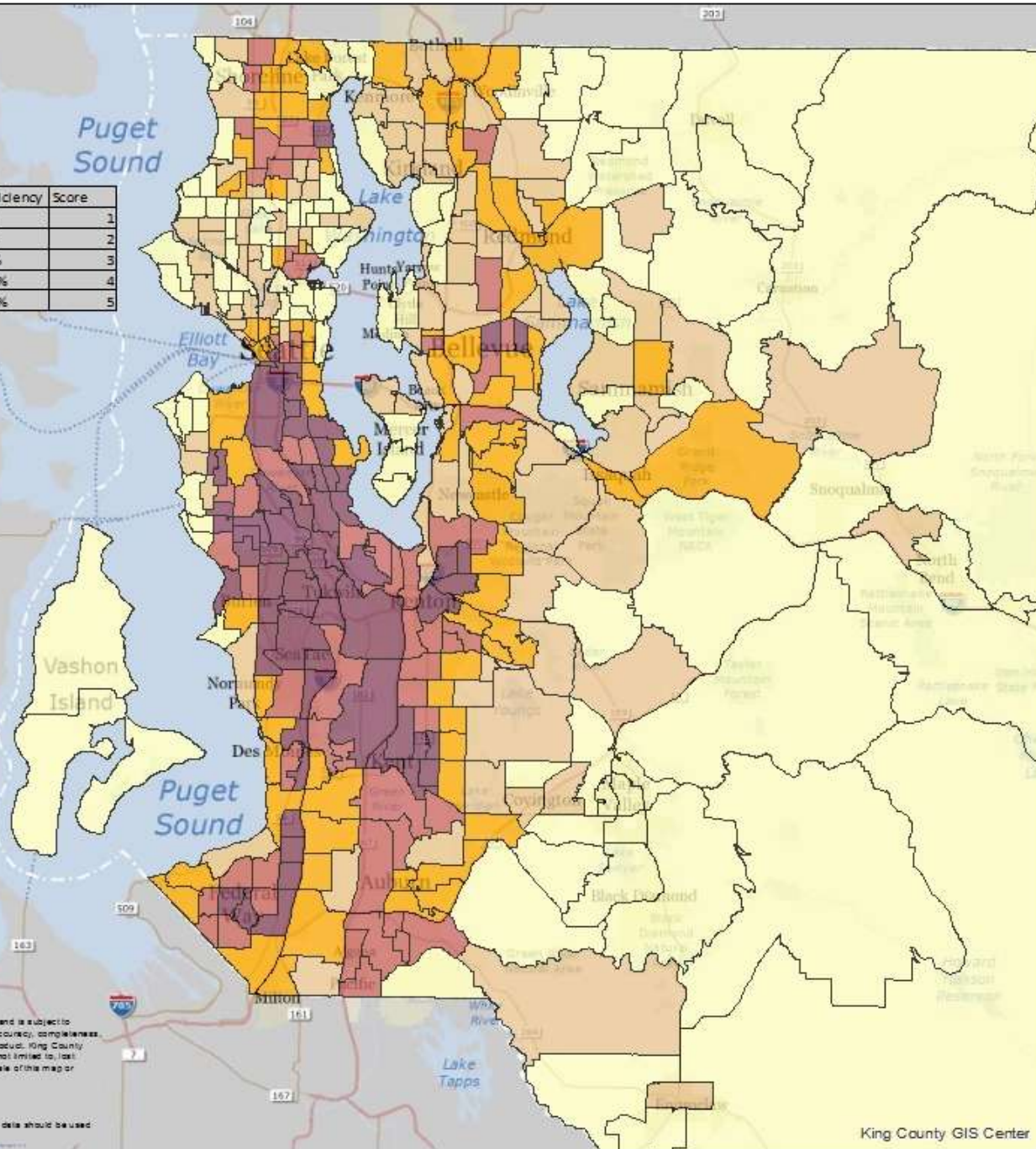
Date: 8/5/2013

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Data Source: 2010 Census & 2008-2010 5 Year American Community Survey

Note: Because the American Community Survey is a small sample, margins of error are high, and these data should be used with caution.

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King County GIS Center

King County Subregions

Derived from 2010 Census
Block Groups

Subregion

- Rural
- Seattle
- Suburban East
- Suburban North
- Suburban SouthWest

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Date Source: 2010 Census

2 1 0 2
Miles

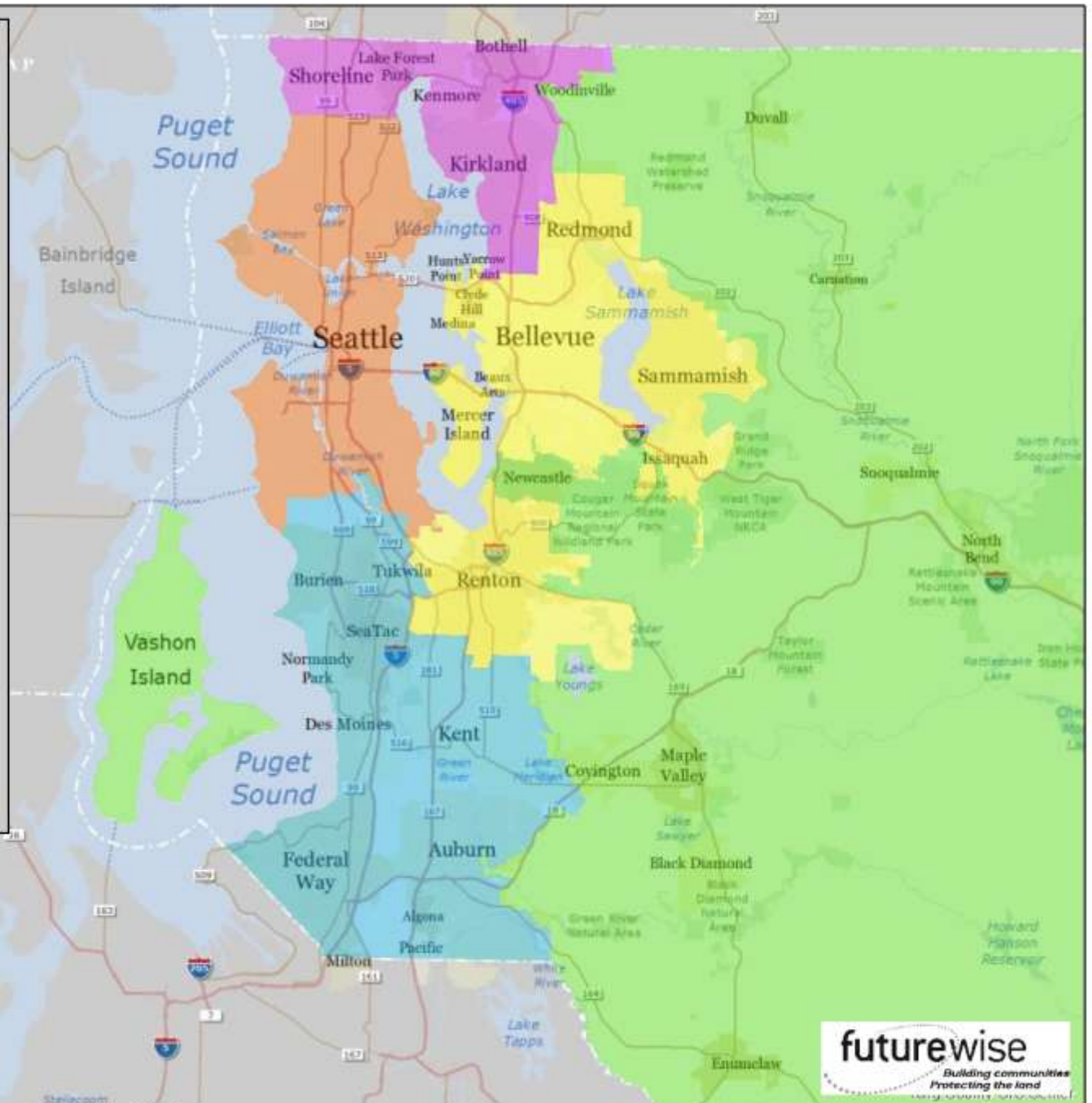


Date: 8/5/2013



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futurewise

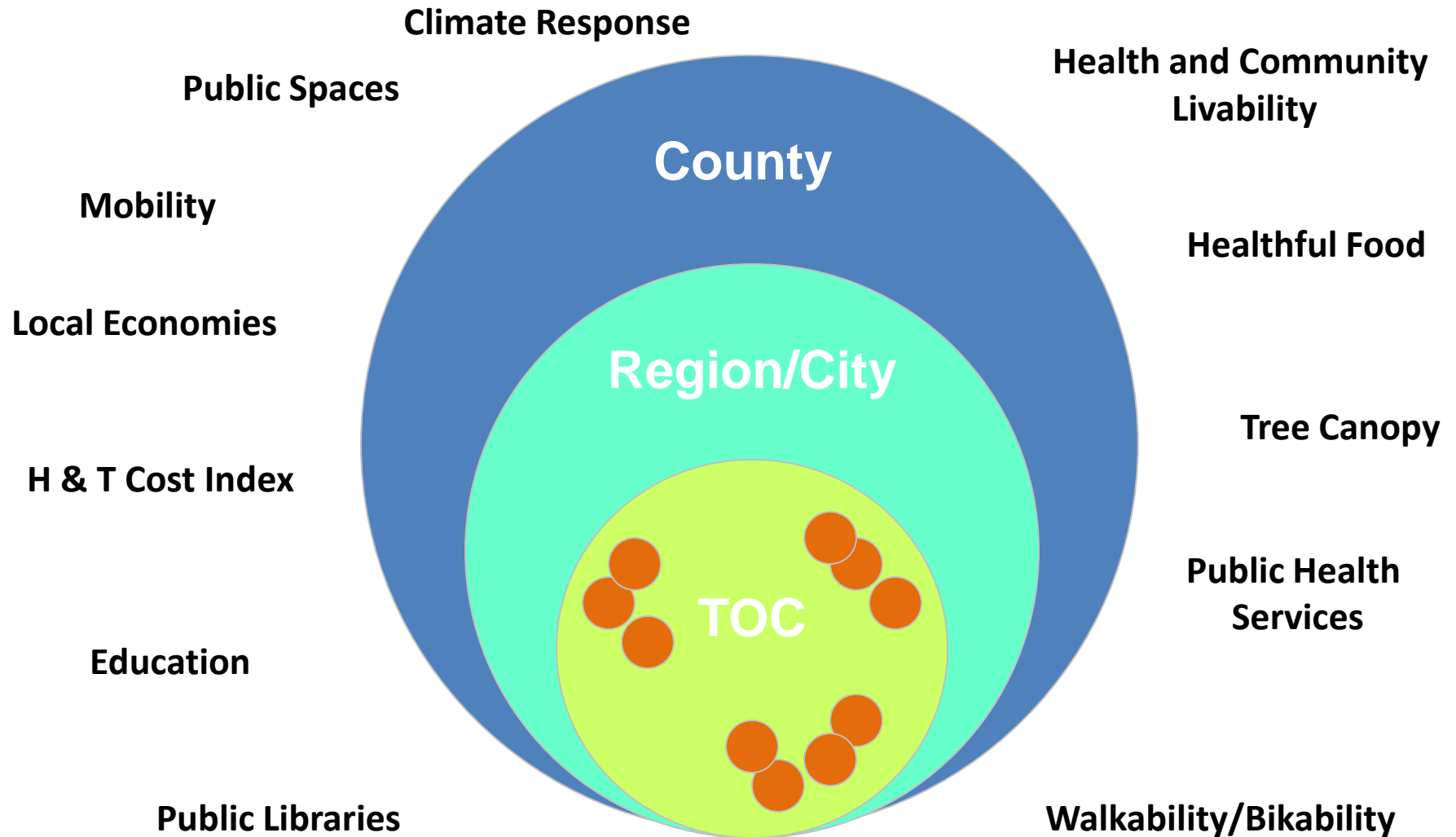
Building communities
Protecting the land

Priority STAR objectives w/ spatial dimension




- ***Compact Complete Communities*** - density, destinations, transit, walkability, design, housing
- ***Affordable Housing*** - provision and distribution
- ***Public Spaces*** - acreage, proximity, connectivity, use
- ***Transportation Choices*** - mode split, affordability, safety, VMT
- ***Civic Engagement*** - voting rates and volunteerism
- ***Equitable Service & Access***
- ***Food Access & Nutrition*** - local food, access to healthy food
- ***Green Infrastructure*** - designated and distribution

Action inventory and outcomes tracking in nested geographies for context-sensitive decision support



Equitable Services and Access Actions

- 
- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Adopt an equity plan that evaluates current conditions in the community and establishes targets to improve equitable access and proximity in at least the categories identified in the outcome measure | Plan Development |
| 2 | Adopt an equity or social justice policy that establishes a clear commitment to equity in local government decision-making, activities, and investments | Policy and Code Adjustment |
| 3 | Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community | Education and Outreach |
| 4 | Publicize efforts to improve equitable access and proximity to community facilities, services, and infrastructure | Education and Outreach |
| 5 | Establish partnerships that engage key community groups and stakeholders in activities to advance equitable access and proximity to facilities, services, and infrastructure | Partnerships and Collaboration |
| 6 | Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff | Practice Improvements |
| 7 | Modify the deployment of local programs and services to reduce disparities within the categories identified in the outcome measure | Programs and Services |
| 8 | Construct new facilities and infrastructure in locations that reduce existing disparities within the categories identified in the outcome measure | Facilities and Infrastructure |

Step 4: Implement Actions

Green Infrastructure



1. **Create a community-wide green infrastructure plan**
2. **Adopt codes** that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments
3. **Adopt a policy requiring** that project sites are evaluated for green infrastructure potential
4. **Partner with key community groups** and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings
5. **Create incentive programs** to encourage land owners to adopt green infrastructure practices
6. **Establish a green infrastructure monitoring program** and regularly report on status of desired outcomes
7. **Increase** the percentage of **funding** invested in green infrastructure
8. **Upgrade public spaces** and public buildings based upon locally-adopted or recognized best practices in green infrastructure.
9. **Provide for ongoing maintenance** of green infrastructure at level required

Related Opportunities



- **King County's Equity Impact Assessment Tool** - to understand benefits and burdens distribution pattern of proposed actions, how alternatives will either make -/+ unfairness/ unevenness, what factors can minimize unfairness or be pro-equity.
- **Regional Coordination** - making our work visible as a precursor step to aligning contributions of multiple actors.
- **National Benchmarking** - to assist with diagnostics, measurement, and priority setting.
- **Toward a 'Science of Governance'** – that helps build the evidence about 'what works' toward outcome improvements.

Building Evidence About 'Action Effectiveness' - *degree of impact on community conditions*

Community conditions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Actions:														
Partnership & Collaboration														
Inventory, Assessment or Survey														
Plan Development														
Policy & Code Adjustment														
Education & Outreach														
Practice Improvements														
Enforcement & Incentives														
Programs & Services														
Facility & Infrastructure improvement														

- Change over time
- Geography of condition
- Demography of area



Coefficient of variation, R value

- Time of action occurrence
- Geographic 'reach' of action
- Who is touched by action
- Gradient of effort

How GIS staff can contribute:



- Identify- explore - critique the (spatial) STAR ‘actions’ and ‘outcomes’ that relate to your program area
- Advance standard ways of denoting spatial and temporal characteristics of actions and outcomes
- Determine where actions and outcomes are aligned in program theory, and
- Advance the ‘Science of Governance’ by developing evidence about ‘what works’ toward outcome improvements

Thank you!



- Questions?
- Discussion?
- Where to get more information:
 - King County STAR Communities SharePoint site
 - www.STARcommunities.org
 - richard.gelb@kingcounty.gov